

Remarks

Claims 1 and 18 have been amended to change the transitional term "comprising" to "consisting essentially of."

Claims 8, 9 and 22 have been amended to correct typographical errors.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. Section 103

The claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Disclosure and Schisler et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,264,178 ; hereinafter "Schisler") in view of Yarnell et al., (European Patent No.1205515 ; hereinafter "Yarnell"). To the extent the amended claims are deemed unpatentable over the cited art, these rejections are traversed.

Applicants note that support for the amendment to claims 1 and 18 to change the transitional language from "comprising" to "consisting essentially of" is supported as follows.

Applicants contend that the use of an ethylene-alpha-olefin elastomer in the composition in the airsleeve of claims 1 and 18 is excluded by the use of the transitional language "consisting essentially of." Applicants maintain that inclusion of an ethylene-alpha-olefin elastomer in the composition in the airsleeve in claims 1 and 18 would materially change the characteristics of the airsleeve, and as such is properly excluded by the language "consisting essentially of" (MPEP 2111.3).

The present specification discloses at page 3, lines 17 through 23 that the plycoat includes 100 parts by weight of at least one diene-based elastomer selected from natural rubber (NR), synthetic polyisoprene rubber (IR), butadiene rubber (BR) and styrene-butadiene rubber (SBR). The present specification does not disclose the use of an ethylene-alpha-olefin elastomer. Applicants urge that the use of an ethylene-alpha-olefin elastomer would thus materially change the characteristics of the airsleeve, as it is believed that the intended improvement of adhesion by the plycoat to the elastomeric cover would not be achieved through

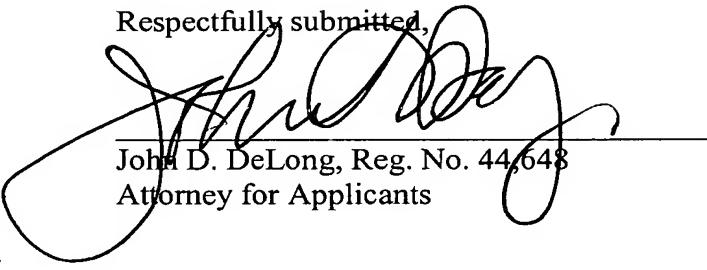
use of an ethylene-alpha-olefin elastomer in the plycoat.

Applicants urge the claims as amended are not obvious over the cited art. Yarnell requires the use of an ethylene-alpha-olefin elastomer; the use of the transitional language "consisting essentially of" in the amended claims excludes the use of an ethylene-alpha-olefin elastomer in the claimed airsleeve.

Conclusion

Applicants urge that the amended claims are now fully patentable over the cited art. Applicants respectfully request allowance of all claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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